

STUDENTS AS PRODUCERS of socially relevant projects

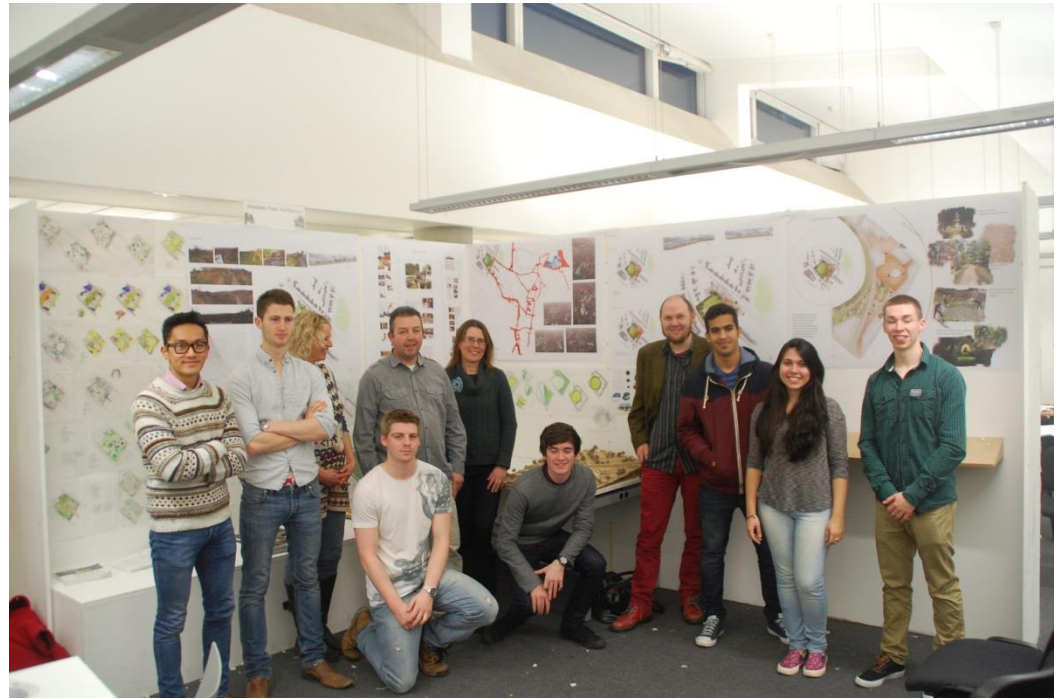
Cooperation with 'Abundant Earth Community' (A.E.C.) 2013-2014



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STUDENTS AS PRODUCERS

“Life projects are so beneficial because it's real life context, with real people just like working in industry, the experience you get from a life project is second to none” said Adam Griffiths – 2nd year architecture student, which together with groups of 10 adepts of architecture have designed project for one most interesting Lincolnshire housing cooperative group – Abundant Earth Community (A.E.C.). The project was facilitated by dr. Marcin M. Kołakowski who found opportunity in leasing with – A.E.C. , which is a recently established group aiming to set up a co-housing cooperative community of people committed to idea of shearing, and deeply ecological work/live model.



Those environmental and social ideas are strong yet they need to be translated into concrete architectural plans of houses... and even most importantly into places between buildings which could accommodate spirit of community.



The group of students who decided to develop this project as part of “Sustainable Design” module had to in many respect undertake much more intensive work than their colleagues. In order to be successful they have to thoroughly research appropriate techniques which will meet unique needs of A.E.C. relating to self build and aspiration to set up exemplar way of living. Despite of this additional work the ethos of treating “students as producer” of socially relevant work proved to give incredible boost. – “All students, each and every one of them, went with the work like house on fire” – said tutor Marcin M Kořakowski – “Students were meeting almost daily, facebook group where students exchange their work was buzzing with ideas. It seemed that co-operative ethos of clients infected students who develop very effective system of working together and inspiring each other. It is unique between architecture students, who much too often are encourage to be individualistic and egocentric.”



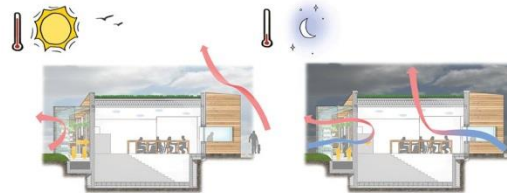
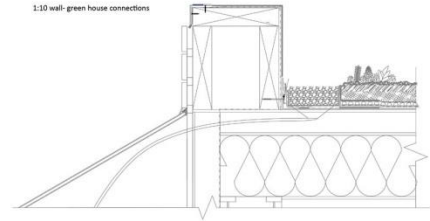
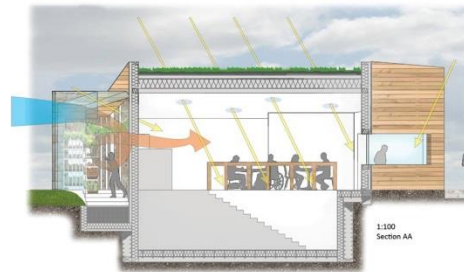
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As a result of intensive feasibility studies and workshops with client the project has been developed toward consistent design in which variety of buildings of this eco- socially-friendly community surrounds large circular public park and allotments.



This vision was not only useful as exercise for students who the first time worked with clients but also for clients themselves. Angela Porter from A.E.C. Said, “This student work would be a great help in future processes when talking to councils, investors and members, to explain and visualise our aspirations”.



- Green house:
- Grows fruit and vegetables to be used for cooking in the community.
 - Some of the heat gained in the green house will distribute through the building and warm it up.
 - Focuses heat onto the thermal mass into to the building thus making the green house and building warm at night
 - Excess water from the green roof will be fed into the plants in the green house through a network of pipes.
 - Reducing mechanical heating and ventilation

